



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

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**Testimony of the Judicial Branch
Appropriations Committee Public Hearing
March 18, 2022**

H.B. 5005, An Act Concerning Funding for the Victim Compensation Program

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch concerning **H.B. 5005, *An Act Concerning Funding for the Victim Compensation Program***. The Judicial Branch takes no position on the policies furthered by the bill. Existing law provides for victim compensation for personal injury and certain emotional injury. This proposal would expand the scope of compensation payable from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, the "Fund," to include loss and damage to personal property. As written, the bill would fundamentally change the purpose of the victim compensation program and would have a significant fiscal impact on the Fund.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the Fund balance will be insufficient to meet the projected compensation needs of the program. Adding an additional reimbursement obligation for property loss, depending on the parameters, would be cost prohibitive. For context, the state of Florida has the only victim compensation program in the country that reimburses victims for stolen vehicles and is available only to persons over 60 years of age with a reimbursement limit of \$500.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We would be happy to discuss this proposal further if you wish.